

**Presentation to Municipality of Arran-Elderslie Council – January 10, 2022**

Carolyn Hodgins and myself, Judy MacKinnon wish to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on behalf of the Friends of the Treasure Chest Museum, Paisley, Ontario.

It has been almost 2 years since we spoke last to you but we do appreciate your assistance in the paying of the bills and answering some of our requests.

The year 2019 was a good and busy year at the Museum—always interesting, challenging and the rewards are the people who visit and support our various activities. As we have said in the past, we are a small group of Volunteers who are MIGHTY in time, energy, food, and money donated to do the little things at the Museum to provide programmes to meet the needs of the community.

Our summer student in 2019 was Noah Eke, set up displays, answered queries and helped organize programmes. Maryse Gaudet also greeted visitors and works on the donation list. At the end of summer, The Friends had a luncheon for Noah and wished him all the best in the future.

At the Museum, in 2019, Family and friends helped us providing their time and talent for our events. January, February and March, the Friends held luncheons with euchre which were well attended. There was lots of chatter, good food and fun which helped beat the winter blahs. Trivia nights are always fun and lots of laughter in testing the participants "knowledge".

In February , we also opened the Museum for Family Day to view the many scrapbooks that contain a wealth of information of the area.

May, the Museum opened for the coming 2019 season with a Garage Sale which proves interesting . Over the summer, Noah was busy answering queries, greeting the visitors from far and wide , helped with Pioneer day in July. Brian Beech, Ed and Heidi Maxwell and Dorothy Hinchcliffe showed their skills. In August , the Friends served lunch at the celebration of life for Donald Becker to his family and friends. The late Donald Becker is a grandson of Norman and Ina Hagedorn.

Simon and Lily Orchard and Samuel Rowe are now "regular greeters" to the Museum. These are wooden characters whom we have out front to "say Hello" to our visitors. Also the Historic banners that used to hang on hydro poles in Paisley are now at the Museum and were displayed on the side of the Museum for the summer months.

September brings the Paisley and Area Agricultural Fall Fair. The Museum set up a quilting bee along with a display of historical artifacts and answered questions pertaining the Museum. We had children try their hand at quilting which was great to see.

The Friends thanked Sadhana Prasad and Carly Steinhoff for their assistance in applying for

"Engaging Rural Seniors' Grant to help with programmes for the Museum. The grant was for \$3977.40 and ran for October 1, 2019 till March 31, 2020 . We received \$3181.92 originally with a holdback of \$795.48 which we would receive at the end of the programme in March. However they extended the time to December 31, 2020 due to Covid19 , but we were unable to finish programmes so we had to return \$787.47 which was the balance left from the \$3181.92.

In October , the Friends catered to a 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday party for Mrs. Sheila Orchard of Markdale. She is a "feisty" lady and enjoys the Museum and wanted to have her party here. She spoke at our Remembrance program in 2018.

We also held a "Alzheimer Coffee Break" with proceeds to Grey-Bruce Alzheimer Society. Also another Trivia Night was held with prizes donated by Keiser Orchards and Friends.

In November, Pat Kelly, Barrister told of stories, he has researched on World War 11. We thank Carly for arranging the power point projector and screen. A donation was made to Royal Canadian Legion, Paisley Branch 295 .

December 7<sup>th</sup> was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Tour. The homes toured-Dan and Jane Hettrick, Craig Hewitt, Joanne Craddock, Mike Barnell and Martine Cote-Barnell, Melissa and Kevin Kanmacher and Brad and Melanie Pyke. This event was well attended and even our Mayor was able to attend this one. The Friends again served soup, biscuits and Christmas treats as lunch at the Museum. It is a lot of work, organizing but very rewarding for the Friends with the money (\$1440.00) going to a much needed addition. A special visitor to lunch was SANTA CLAUS with a cheque of \$1101.00 from the estate of Richard Mackey. What a surprise !!! Richard passed away in 2018 and he had said any of pioneer tools sold, the money was to go to the Pioneer group that Jerrold Beech and Ed Maxwell belong to for them to disperse.

June and December have seen the Grades 2 and 3 from Paisley Central School visit us. They have fun doing pioneer activities and we thank the School for their support.

In December, The Grinch told everyone at the Paisley Late-Night Shopping to visit the Museum . At 2019 and 2020, we had a total of over 100. Some Christmas shoppers have never been to the Museum before so it is good PR for us.

(on a note, This summer, just before we opened officially, I was doing some work at the Museum and a chap came to the door to see if they could come in. It was a family of 4 from the city. I took the liberty to say "Yes" . The father was from United Arab Emirates originally and his little boy told me was "born" in Canada. The Dad was most interested in the artifacts as it was all New to him. So I am glad to let them through.)

In 2020, the Friends had 3 successful luncheons and euchre again. These are always fun and the Friends prepare food to "suit the occasion". In January, Constable Kevin Martin of the OPP spoke to our visitors on the Scams. It was most interesting and lots of questions for him.



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We also had booked a speaker from the Health Unit to talk on "Ticks" but Bruce County Snow storm cancelled that and then Covid hit and that was then end of our speakers for 2020.

Our writers' group continued to meet also until Covid 19 as well. During Covid 19 the Volunteers continued updating of files, cataloguing , check on messages, answered queries. Some of our new artifacts: the safe from Stark's Mill, all wooden washing machine from Elderslie Township, postal cabinet and banker's desk from Tara, Krug banner from Chesley, Brick from the Paisley Inn, 2 cabinets from Old Paisley library, jewellery cabinet from Shoemakers of Paisley, handmade table from Ebenezer, diaries, photos and small articles.

In July 2020, the Museum and Tourist Centre opened with Maya Bellamy as the Summer Student to Welcome visitors to the Museum and answer queries on places to visit. A group of home schooled children from Belmore to Durham came for their pioneer activity in August.

The Friends thank Carly Steinhoff, Manager, Facilities, Recreation and Parks and the help from the Arena Staff. The Arena Staff put up the "Barn Quilts" on the front of the Museum.

A BIG THANK YOU THE COUNCIL AND CARLY FOR GETTING THE MUCH NEEDED SHED FOR THE MUSEUM. We thank Council for paying for the cement pad, Gibbons Construction for the preparation work, Stinson Bros. for Hydro installation and to our Visitors to support our activities plus donations The Friends had received for the addition.

You will be pleased to know that we have many things in the shed already and even though we wanted it attached to the Museum with the cement pad where it is , it is good. We do have a small wish list: 1) Computer upgrade; 2) weather stripping as doors show light; 3) crash doors for fire escape; 4) road grader painted; 5) outdoor water tap; 6) pad for Dunblane school Bell.

The collection of history and artifacts of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie and area is one of a kind. The visitors are in complete "awe" of the items like: agricultural, military, crocks, bath sets, sports, train station items, period clothing, beautiful glassware and the archives. We are constantly complimented on how well organized and tidy the Museum is. Thanks to the Volunteers and Students.

REMEMBER THIS WAS ONE MAN'S DREAM TO SAVE AND SHARE----MEMORIES OF YESTERYEAR AND RECORD THE WAY OF LIFE NOW PAST.

Thank you again,  
Eldon and Judy MacKinnon  
Carolyn Hodgins  
Brian and Edith Beech  
Cathy and Owen Parsons  
Ken and Carol Anderson

Maryse Gaudet  
Mary Cumming  
Dale and Sheryl Steinhoff  
Reta Davis  
Deborah MacDonald